

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03

OMB-01 L-03 SS-15 /060 W
----- 053725

R 090752Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5907
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, KS, JP
SUBJECT: GOJ CURBS ON KOREAN SILK EXPORTS

REF: SEOUL 1493

1. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, SEOUL, REPORTED MARCH 8 THAT AN OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MCI) STATED THAT THE ROKG HAD DECIDED TO IMPOSE A BAN ON IMPORTS OF JAPANESE TEXTILE MACHINERY IN RETALIATION FOR THE JAPANESE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF KOREAN SILK PRODUCTS. THE STORY ALSO SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE DONG-A ILBO, A SEOUL DAILY, THE MCI WOULD NOT PERMIT A DISPLAY OF JAPANESE TEXTILE MACHINERY SCHEDULED FOR SEOUL AND THAT THE LOCAL SILK INDUSTRY WOULD FOSTER A CAMPAIGN TO BOYCOTT JAPANESE IMPORTS.

2. NOH CHIN-SHIK (M/R SPELLING: NO CHIN-SIK) DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROMOTION OF MCI AND CHIEF OF THE KOREAN NEGOTIATING TEAM AT THE MARCH 4-6 SILK TALKS AT TOKYO, TOLD US THAT THE BAN AGAINST JAPANESE TEXTILE MACHINERY WAS "UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REASONS" BUT THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED. WE ASKED HIM IF THE REPORTS OF THE BAN WERE PART OF THE KOREAN STRATEGY IN

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THE SILK TRADE NEGOTIATIONS; HE REPLIED, "THAT'S RIGHT".

3. THE RECENT ROKG-GOJ SILK TRADE TALKS AT TOKYO WERE EXTENDED FOR ONE DAY BEYOND THE SCHEDULED TIME. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO FURTHER TALKS IN LATE MARCH AT SEOUL. THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT THE TALKS AT SEOUL MAY BE ELEVATED TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

4. FOR TOKYO: WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF WHATEVER INFORMATION YOU MAY OBTAIN CONCERNING THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED TALKS.

SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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